



## TOP STORY

## Legislative Day 6: Georgia State Senate Celebrates Tourism Day at the Capitol

By Jennifer Kitt

CHAMBER (Jan. 26, 2010) - The State Senate reconvened for the 6<sup>th</sup> day of session and welcomed a variety of representatives from the tourism industry to the capitol for Tourism Day. Sen. Chip Pearson (R-Dawsonville) presented a resolution honoring retired Deputy Commissioner for Tourism and Marketing Charlie Gatlin, and declaring Jan. 26 as Tourism Day.

“When our citizens are at risk with people with guns in the street we don’t say ‘let’s have Washington take care of it,’ we take care of it. When a person is robbed with a pen and paper the same rules apply,” said Sen. Fort.

Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford) has been a leader in the prevention of crimes against women and children. Most recently, she has been working to stop child prostitution in the state

of Georgia. Atlanta currently ranks in the top 14 cities with child prostitution.

Sen. Unterman also recognized the ARC of Georgia, an organization that develops programs, funding and public policy for people

with developmental disabilities. Peter Barns, the National Chief Executive Officer for ARC was also in attendance.

Sen. Jim Butterworth (R- Cornelia) and Sen. John Douglas (R-Social Circle) recognized members of the Super Sabre Society (For more information, see page 2).

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*Sen. Pearson announces Tourism Day at the Capitol*

“Tourism brings jobs to the state, and that’s the bottom line after all,” said Gatlin. Representatives from the tourism industry visited the capitol and displayed their products in the Senate Rotunda. Currently the tourism industry brings in \$34 billion to the state and 240,000 jobs.

Sen. Vincent Fort (D-Atlanta) gave a passionate statement about predatory lending and foreclosures. The senator encouraged other members to take responsibility for negative loans and the foreclosure crisis.

## Sen. Butterworth Honors Super Sabre Society

By Katie Wright

CAPITOL (Jan. 26, 2010) – Today, State Sen. Jim Butterworth (R-Clarkesville) and the entire Georgia Senate adopted Senate Resolution 853 to recognize and commend the Super Sabre Society, a group of United States Air force (USAF) pilots that flew the USAF F-100 fighter-bomber aircraft.

“We are among heroes,” said Sen. Butterworth. “These brave, courageous men risked their lives for their country and we will always be grateful for and humbled by their sacrifice.”

The F-100 is nicknamed the “Hun.” Manufactured in the early 1950s, it was the first United States fighter plane to achieve and sustain supersonic speed in straight and level flight. These planes were instrumental in the Vietnam War and in preparing for the nuclear threat of that time. The plane was last officially flown with the Air National Guard in 1979.



Sen. Jim Butterworth (R-Clarkesville) welcomes Super Sabre Society

Members of the society travelled from every corner of Georgia to be recognized at the State Capitol. They have flown in World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. They were recognized for embodying the spirit of service and willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves.

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## Trinity Broadcasting Network Records Messages of Hope For Haiti

By Meredith Rich



CAPITOL (Jan. 26, 2010) – Approximately 30 Senators and Representatives participated in Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN)’s recording of inspirational messages for the citizens affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Legislators gathered in the North Wing of the Capitol to give words of encouragement and optimism to the victims of Haiti. The recordings will air on the network, which is broadcast around the country.

TBN and its affiliates are traveling across the country to produce the messages. The recordings will air on the radio, online and on television. TBN took on this project to show Haitians that people are continuing to support and pray for their country.

TBN has been the world’s largest religious network and America’s most watched faith channel for 37 years. TBN offers 24 hours of commercial-free, inspirational programming that appeal to people in a wide variety of denominations.

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**By Kallarin Richards**

“Job creation is at the forefront of repairing our local and national economy. Today’s hearing marks a crucial first-step to creating an atmosphere that encourages job growth in Georgia,” said Sen. Pearson. “A recurring recommendation from all of our speakers was to reduce regulation on businesses in order to jumpstart the employment sector. I firmly believe that taxation, litigation and regulation are the three biggest killers of jobs.”

He warned that despite popular predictions of expected growth in the middle of the year, recovery will be much slower, especially if stocks begin to decline again. Pletcher encouraged the committees to consider removing impediments to job creation, such as repealing minimum wage laws, reducing business regulations and encouraging Georgia congressmen to introduce a bill that repeals the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which allows Congress to levy an income tax without apportioning it among the states. While he admitted this is an ambitious idea, Pletcher stressed the importance of ensuring that the money that is made in Georgia stays in Georgia.

Because of the housing industry's significant impact on Georgia jobs, the committees got an overall look at metro Atlanta's housing market from Eugene James, director of Metrostudy's Atlanta region which is a leading

Georgia's ports are another key area for job and economic growth. Michael Toma, professor of economics at Atlantic Armstrong State University, stressed the importance of deepening the Savannah harbor in order to retain Georgia's competitive edge, as well as transportation projects that allow cargo to move quickly and efficiently through the area. Losing that market share could set the state back another five years.

Throughout the Legislative Session, the Senate and House Economic Development committees will continue discussing ways the legislature can encourage growth in Georgia's job sector.



# Legislative Process Dates

## Important Dates in the Legislative Process

**Introduction** - Last day to file and/or 1st Read in Senate.

**30<sup>th</sup> day** - last day to introduce General Senate bills and resolutions (even year). [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

**30<sup>th</sup> day** - last day to accept General House bills and resolutions. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

**39<sup>th</sup> day** - last day to introduce General Senate bills and resolutions (odd year). [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

*\*Note: Senate bills and resolutions must be filed with the Secretary before 4:00 p.m. to be 1st read on the next legislative day.*

## Deadlines for passage in current year

**Committee Report Deadlines** - Last day to read report. Report submitted to Secretary by convening.

**28<sup>th</sup> day** - General Senate bills and resolutions.

**38<sup>th</sup> day** - Local Senate bills and resolutions.

**38<sup>th</sup> day** - General House bills and resolutions.

**40<sup>th</sup> day** - Local House bills and resolutions.

### **Calendar Management**

Calendar in numerical order after 2nd reading of legislation; days 1-5. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

Rules Committee sets the calendar for days 6 - 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (b)]

### **General Senate Bills and Resolutions**

**26<sup>th</sup> day** - File with Secretary of the Senate. [Rule 3-1.2 (a)]

**27<sup>th</sup> day** - 1st Reading and referral to committee. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

**28<sup>th</sup> day** - Committee report read upon convening. (A recommitted bill already 2nd read - report day 29.)

**29<sup>th</sup> day** - 2nd Reading. [Rule 4-2.6]

**30<sup>th</sup> day** - Passage [Rule 4-2.10 (a)] and immediate transmittal to House. [Rule 4-2.14]

### **Local Senate Bills and Resolutions**

**35<sup>th</sup> day** - File with Secretary of the Senate. [3-1.2 (a)]

**36<sup>th</sup> day** - 1st Reading and referral to committee. (Cannot pass for 2 days.) [Rule 4-2.4 (c) ]

**38<sup>th</sup> day** - Favorable report by committee, passage and immediate transmittal to the House. [Rule 4-2.14]

**39<sup>th</sup> day** - 2nd Reading in House.

**40<sup>th</sup> day** - Favorable report and passage in House.

### **General House Bills and Resolutions**

**30<sup>th</sup> day** - Transmitted from House and received by Secretary.

**31<sup>st</sup> day** - 1st Reading and referral to committee. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

**38<sup>th</sup> day** - Favorable report upon convening and 2nd reading. (Applies to days 36 - 38) [Rule 4-2.6]

**39<sup>th</sup> day** - Passage. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

**40<sup>th</sup> day** - Passage of bills or resolutions tabled day 39; removed from the table on day 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

### **Local House Bills and Resolutions**

**39<sup>th</sup> day** - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and referral to committee.

**40<sup>th</sup> day** - Favorable report by committee and passage.

*\* Note: On the 30th day and on the last three days of session, bills and resolutions needing action from the House are automatically immediately transmitted. [Rule 4-2.14]*

**40<sup>th</sup> day** - Passage of bills or resolutions tabled day 39; removed from the table on day 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]